

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4968

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D N E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1419

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AF FOR AMBASSADOR HARROP FROM CROSBY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: SHUM, GV
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH

1. SORRY YOU COULD NOT MAKE THE CONFERENCE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, I WANTED TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS WITH YOU. BELIEVE TIME IS RIPE FOR ME TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT TOURE. WE HAVE GOT THE MESSAGE TO HIM THROUHH BEAUVOGUI, MOUSSA DIAKITE, ISMAEL TOURE, ABDOULAYE TOURE AND OTHERRS, AND NOW WITH SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF MONROVIA SUMMIT AND HOPEFULLY SUCCESSFUL ICRC VISIT, TIME SEEMS PROPITIOUS TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH THE PRESIDENT. I WOULD EXPRESS SATISFACTION OVER ENCOURGAING PROGRESS AT MONROVIA AND TOWARD MORE RELAXED INTERNAL ATMOSPHERE, CITE UNHCR AND ICRC VISITS, AND EXPRESS OUR STRONGLY HELD VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OUR HOPE THAT TOURE WILL CONTINUE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. WOULD ADVANCE VIEW THAT NN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER NEED DETAIN SUCH PRISONERS, AND WULD POINT OUT HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS IN AID AND OTHER U.S. LEGISLATION AND THE PRACTICAL BEARING THIS HAS ON PROSPECTS FOR CLOSER U.S./ GUINEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE. GIVEN TOURE'S
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CURRENT INTEREST IN SUCH BROADER ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION WITH THE WEST, BELIEVE ABOVE APPROACH SHOULD REGISTER WITH HIM AND ENCOURAGE CONTINUED MOVEMENT IN THE DESIRED DIRECTON.

2. AS INDICATED IN OUR RECENT POLICY CABLE, A LOGICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE FOLLOW ON TO SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE VISIT

BY HIGH LEVEL USG OFFICIAL SUCH AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO RE-

INFORCE THE POINTS WE HAVE
BEEN MAKING. GOG WOULD BE DELIGHTED
TO RECEIVE YOUNG AND WOULD OFFER HIM OPTIMAL OPPORTUNITY FOR
FRANK EXCHANGE. BELIEVE IT OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE THAT ANY
SUCH VISITOR TALKING WITH SEKOU TOURE APPROACH HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUE UNEMOTITNALLY, POINTING OUT IT IS QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE
WITH IMPORTANT PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS, BUT AVOIDING ACCUSATORY,
VONDEMNATORY OR POLEMICAL LANGUAGE, AS THAT WOULD AROUSE
TOURE'S RESENTMENT AND RESISTENCH TO FURTHER HCFMAN RIGHTS IM-
PROVEMENTS RATHER THAN ENCOURAGING CONTINUED PROGRESS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ESTIMATE OF CHANCE OF VISIT BY
AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND POSSIBLE TIMING. ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS
OR OBSERVATIONS WOULD BE WELCOME.
SMYTHE

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